



OUT ON A LIMB

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INTRODUCTION

In Volume VI, number 2 of OUT ON A LIMB, November 1992 (mistakenly dated July 1992 on the cover), I pledged to get out three issues of the LIMB in 1992. So here in March of 1993 is the third issue, a mere three months late, which based on my track record I figure puts me about two months ahead of schedule.

This issue features "THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICAL 1860 TO 1960, AN OVERVIEW" which I wrote for and which appeared as an introduction to Remy Bourne's rare 1990 2 volume major opus with substantially the same title. [In fact, I am actually rather proud of this article]. I felt that our readers would appreciate the information as few copies of Remy's book were produced and as little of substance had previously been written on the topic.

Also included is an offering of some numismatic literature available exclusively from us which we really feel that each of you should have, and of which only a few copies of each remain [I just love convoluted syntax. By the way I wonder if the Clinton administration has considered a syntax sin tax as a source of "revenue enhancement".]

Finally, as usual are some of our recommendations, observations, mea culpas, and some lighter and obviously therefore actually interesting stuff.

Finally, you will notice that there are 25 pages in this issue with 24 numbered pages beginning with the next page being numbered **Page 1**. There is a very good reason for that. I screwed up. (Hard to imagine, isn't it?) Let's just keep it our little secret.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS FROM 1860 TO 1960

AN OVERVIEW BASED ON REMY BOURNE'S BOOK OF THE SAME NAME

INTRODUCTION

The coin collector or numismatist probably takes the ready access of numismatic information for granted today. For example, COIN WORLD and NUMISMATIC NEWS reach nearly 100,000 weekly readers. The monthly publications COINAGE and COINS can be found on nearly every magazine rack throughout the country. This does not even include those who receive THE NUMISMATIST, PENNY-WISE, the JOHN REICH JOURNAL, and other club and subject matter periodicals. However, ready access to topical numismatic information is a rather modern phenomenon.

Although periodicals devoted to American numismatics date back to the Civil War, few people today are aware of the history and growth of the American numismatic periodical. The overall picture represented by the body of these periodicals comprises an unsurpassed written record of the growth and development of American numismatics. The periodicals, many of which are little known, recorded the events, the personalities, the ideas, and the issues that spread the gospel of American numismatics.

In 1990 after years of research in virtually a virgin territory Remy Bourne published AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS 1860-1960, AN ILLUSTRATED COLLECTORS GUIDE. Collectors and bibliophiles may be familiar with Remy's research into premium lists and prices paid for lists - and the five volumes about them which he has written and published. However, few are aware of Remy's now out-of-print two volume, profusely illustrated work on numismatic periodicals. Remy asked me to write an introduction to his periodical book. Q. David Bowers also wrote an introduction to the book. Because of the thoroughness of Remy's work, I felt that something more substantial than a cursory effort was called for. Remy generously offered me the necessary time to write what turned out to be an historical overview of the American numismatic periodical using his research as the basis.

Fewer than 20 copies of AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS were printed probably because at that time little attention was focused on the topic, and perhaps more importantly the \$100 cost (in fact, Remy lost a substantial amount of money on each copy that was sold).

Rather recently, a significant amount of attention and, concomitantly, money has been focused on the topic. Thus it seems appropriate to make this information available to the collecting public. With Remy's permission, we are reprinting, with only minor changes, our introduction to AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS 1860-1960, AN ILLUSTRATED COLLECTORS GUIDE.

The organization of this survey follows the organization of Remy's book. Generally, the periodicals discussed in the section for each decade are those which began in that decade. Consequently, most periodicals which lasted for more than one decade are discussed in their entirety in the section devoted to the decade in which they originated. Also, the periodicals within each decade are not necessarily discussed in chronological order. Rather, I tended to discuss the periodicals according to their importance. Finally, even though this work ends with the 1960's, I continued the discussion into the seventies and beyond for most of the periodicals which continued after the sixties ended.

THE 1860's

Numismatics was quite well established in the United States by the end of the Civil War as indicated by there having been approximately 200 numismatic auctions conducted during the preceding 10 years. However, most of the collectors and dealers were clustered in the New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New England areas. In fact, the earliest American numismatic societies were formed in the late 1850's in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Haven, and Rhode Island. Individuals who lived outside those areas had little access to the mainstream of the hobby as numismatic communications outside those areas were severely limited.

American numismatic literature was in its formative stages. More importantly there was no established print medium for regularly communicating numismatic information. Numismatic auction catalogues were little more than listings of coins. As most collectors and dealers attended the auctions in person, there was little reason to provide the extensive text or scholarship which we take for granted in today's auction catalogues. The fixed price list was not extensively used as most coins were sold in shops, or sold and traded among groups of collectors. For example, Joseph Levick in the November 1868 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS mentioned that in the late 1850's local collectors and those visiting from other cities used to gather regularly at George Cogan's shop in Philadelphia "to see what was to be seen and learn any news that might be stirring in the numismatic world". (p. 55)

Perhaps the most widespread national publicity that numismatic matters received were the various illustrated articles carried in HARPER'S MAGAZINE in the early 1860's including W.C. Prime's two articles, "Coins and Coinage" (February 1860) and "Coin in America" (March 1860), and a three part article "Making Money": "The Assay Office New York" (November 1861), "The Mint at Philadelphia" (December 1861), and "The American Banknote Company" (February 1862). In March 1863 "Harper's Magazine" also carried "Continental Money", an article by Benjamin. J. Lossing.

Although not having as extensive a circulation, THE BANKER'S MAGAZINE AND STATISTICAL REGISTER, which was published between 1846 and 1943, published digested articles from various sources many of which had numismatic value including in Volume I (July 1846 to June 1847) woodcut engravings of 212 coins of the world on 16 plates; and 2 full-color anti-photographic banknotes from Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson in Volume 12 (1857-1858). Not generally known is that in Volume XVI (July 1861 to June 1862) accompanying an excerpt from John Hickox's 1858 THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN COINAGE were the inclusion of the 5 plates originally included in some copies of Hickox's work. The plates were finely engraved on thicker paper tinted in the metallic colors of the coins

It was through the occasional articles in national periodicals such as these that those people interested in American numismatics, but who were outside the eastern centers of numismatic activity, received the limited amount of numismatic information available to them.

Numismatic periodicals existed in Europe prior to their introduction into the United States. It is generally considered that the first numismatic periodical was the journal of the Royal Numismatic Society - the NUMISMATIC JOURNAL edited by John Y. Akerman which appeared in 1835, later to be renamed the NUMISMATIC CHRONICLE under which name it continues today. German language periodicals began much earlier. E. E. Clain-Stefanelli's 1985 NUMISMATIC BIBLIOGRAPHY lists the first two volumes of ANNALEN DER GESAMTEN NUMISMATIK in 1804 and 1806, edited by Friedrich von Schlichtteggroll. Other early European periodicals were the REVUE NUMISMATIQUE FRANCAISE which appeared in 1836, followed in 1841 by ANNALI DI NUMISMATICA in Naples, and by the REVUE BELGE DE NUMISMATIQUE in 1845.

Chronologically the first American numismatic periodical appears to be THE COIN AND STAMP

JOURNAL published in Chicago by Mason and Smith. Issued monthly between May 1865 and April 1866 Attinelli noted, "Twelve numbers of this little 5 1/4 x 8 1/4 bantling [a young child] of 4 pp. each sufficed to kill it" (p. 105). Although Remy Bourne notes that these were listed in the "Earl of Crawford" library, we have not seen any of these, nor have we been able to find any illustrations of them.

The next American numismatic periodical, one which was to be somewhat more significant, appeared the month following the demise of the THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL. On March 8, 1866 at the meeting of the American Numismatic & Archaeological Society (ANAS) Joseph Levick proposed the creation of an American numismatic periodical equal to the quality of the European journals. The ANAS [Note: the ANS was renamed the ANAS after the Civil War keeping the name until 1908 when it resumed being called the ANS] appointed a publication committee of Levick, Isaac Wood, George H. Perine, Frank H. Norton and Reverend William W. Seymour. Because there was doubt about the prospects for the financial success of a journal, the ANAS adopted measures to subsidize the first year of the project. Finally, near the end of May 1866 the first issue of the first major American numismatic periodical appeared - Volume I, Number 1 of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS AND BULLETIN OF the American Numismatic & Archaeological Society. (Howard L. Adelson, THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, 1958, p. 56). At the very beginning of the first issue which consisted of 8 pages appeared a statement summarizing the state of numismatic communication in America at the time:

It is certainly a matter of some surprise, taking into consideration the extent of the interests involved, that the subjects of Numismatics and Archaeology have, until the present time, existed in this country without an organ or means of introduction to the public, or to those persons who make their study a specialty.

the only means for instruction, for the spread of information, or for the advancement of these sciences, in a literary point of view, has been an occasional paragraph in a weekly paper, or an account of some coins sale, or the discovery of an ancient relic, transiently made public in the newspapers and perhaps cut out and preserved by interested collectors.

and all this time there has been no publication attempted which, besides being of historical value, should act as a check upon all nefarious and improper acts, either in the manufacture, collection, or sale of coins and medals

with the hope that ... it [The AJN] may in time become a useful and valuable adjunct to historical and scientific literature. (p. 1)

The first issue also contained "TRANSACTIONS" (summaries) of the meetings of the ANAS, the Boston Numismatic Society, and the New England Numismatic and Antiquarian Society; also featured was a descriptive column accompanied by a woodcut of a "Sommer Islands" piece; a proposal for the striking of a memorial Lincoln medal; "Numismatics and Archaeology Considered as Aids to History", a paper read before the March 8, 1866 ANAS by Frank Norton, President. The 6 display ads on the last page were exclusively from advertisers in New York, Boston, and Worcester, Massachusetts.

It has been estimated that between 150 and 200 copies of the first issue were produced with Adelson noting that in 1867 circulation of the AJN had been less than 100. (p. 61) Soon after, the issues began to include accounts of auction sales, accounts of the legislation authorizing new coinage, correspondence, and lists of coin catalogues (the source of much of Attinelli's data) and coins and tokens. By the eighth issue, December 1866, the expanding horizons of the American numismatic world appeared with 2 articles "Numismatics in Indiana" and "Numismatics in California".

Unfortunately the AJN was not an immediate financial success. In fact from 1870 to 1908, the

publication of the AJN was taken over by the Boston Numismatic Society. However, the importance of this estimable journal which ran in 53 volumes through 1924 was quite accurately stated in a history of the Journal written in Volume XLI, "The history of the Journal, if it could be given in detail, would be a history of American numismatics."

In 1867 what may be considered another early periodical appeared although it is not listed in Remy's book. The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia issued THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA from May 4, 1865 to December 31, 1866. This volume was the first published account of the Society's proceedings as the first record of the accounts of the society's earliest meetings from December 28, 1857 to April 6, 1865 did not appear until the Proceedings of 1910 to 1912, Volume 26. In addition to the minutes of each of the regular meetings for the period the balance of the volume consisted of 8 papers read before the society. The numismatic papers were: "Some Observations on Early Currency of Maryland" by Henry Phillips, Jr., "The Pleasures of Numismatic Science" also by Phillips, and "A Historical Sketch of the National Medals Issued Pursuant to Resolution of Congress 1776 - 1815" by Charles H. Hart.

Ebenezer Mason from Philadelphia was one of the earliest full time coin dealers, conducting 34 auctions between 1868 and 1890. However, he was also the first individual American who seriously committed himself to the periodical for any length of time, probably for two reasons: first, to promote numismatics and second, to supplement his income. Unfortunately despite his enthusiasm, Mason never experienced consistent financial success in the coin business. Consequently, he had to leave the business several times.

During each of the periods in business, Mason put out a periodical. MASON'S COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE debuted in April 1867, 14 months before his first coin auction. Not intended to be as scholarly as the AJN these entertaining issues which were replete with history and numismatic information gave an immediacy to numismatics after the Civil War. For example, he noted that someone had traded a 1799 cent for a \$40.00 diamond pin, and that a Massachusetts collector has sent in \$5.00 (in 1867) for annual subscription. The issues featured a series of articles on the history of American coinage with excellent articles on colonials and the cents of 1793. Further, he correctly predicted that the upcoming Mickley sale "will be the most important that ever occurred in this country. The catalogue will be the guide hereafter for pieces and prices." Mason also promoted Cogan's Mackenzie sale, the first plated auction catalogue in American numismatics. Other brief articles of note were on the 1791 "Washington" silver half dollar, the Fewsmith coin cabinet (Mason's greatest sale), the redemption of large cents, and an account of Cogan's Cauffman sale. The magazine ran for 60 issues through the end of 1871. Of particular importance was his "Photographic Gallery of Coin Collectors of the United States No. 1" which had portraits of 48 major collectors of the period. As an indicator of how numismatic activity was geographically clustered, consider that of the 48 numismatists illustrated, only 5 were not from the east: three from Michigan, one from Indiana, and one from Missouri.

Reverses due to the panic of 1873 forced him out of the business until 1879. In June 1879, he began a new periodical, MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD which ran until September 1881 when again he left the business. The first issue's lead story was the "History of the Recently Discovered Confederate Half Dollar."

He moved to Boston where in 1884 and 1885 where he produced 12 issues of MASON'S MONTHLY ILLUSTRATED COIN COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE AND COIN PRICE CURRENT. These issues contained biographies and engraved portraits of "eminent numismatists past and present", and also engraved exterior views of various U.S. mint buildings.

In 1886, he began conducting auctions again. His periodicals which continued with the same name were produced irregularly. Remy notes one issue in 1886 and three in 1890, the latter with the title preceded by "New Series". The December 1890 issue included prices of 100 lots from the Parmelee

sale, a buy/sell chart offering to buy and sell 1793 chain cents at \$12.00 and \$20.00, and 1794 dollars at \$80/\$120. This last issue apparently signalled the end of Mason's numismatic career as his final auction had been conducted six months earlier. Complete sets of Mason's periodicals are quite rare due to the poor quality of the paper he used, the duration of time that they were produced, and most importantly the numerous interruptions in their production.

Another periodical of worthy note in the 1860's was THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST edited by F. Trifet from Boston. It began in 1867 as the THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY. "NUMISMATIST" was added to its title in issue 21 in July 1869 where it stayed for a total of 11 mostly monthly issues until the next July.

In the July 1869 issue the editor stated its reason for the change.

... we always answered that two magazines on the former subject were enough. That we were mistaken our Numismatic friends will at once see, for though there are two magazines published in this country devoted to the collection of coins [apparently], the editor of one is so learned and the articles of the magazine so profound, that it will never be a popular magazine, though it should be read by every collector who takes an interest in his collection. The editor of the other has the misfortune to lack what his brother has too much of, viz: that much needed, but seldom found article, common sense. We have often wondered whether the Timbrophilic or the numismatic articles in its columns were the least correct, but have not yet been able to solve this problem.

The journal went out of business in March 1871 after publishing 8 more issues for a total of 38. (Attinelli, p. 103.)

Thus, the decade ended with the AJN and MASON'S COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE being the only two ongoing primarily numismatic periodicals. It is also important to note that all of the periodicals for the decade were from east of the Mississippi.

THE 1870's

The 1870's found a total of 29 periodicals which were worthy of note numismatically. DE KURIOSITI KABINET, the first noteworthy periodical of the decade, was also one of the most fascinating journals. Published in "Nu York", by William Brown its first 11 monthly issues used "phonetic" English on the first page of each issue. It continued until the next "Ju'lai" George Kolbe in his Lee/Champa sale of June 28-29, 1981 noted, "each issue offers coins and stamps for sale, comments on current auctions, and in three of the issues, contains a sales listing of early coin auctions 1828-1871." (p. 85) In January 1873 he resumed the publication under the more traditional spelling THE CURIOSITY CABINET publishing a total of 32 issues at irregular intervals until 1897. Brown noted in his April 1877 issue that he began in business in 1860 dealing in U.S. and foreign gold, silver and copper coins, medals, and tokens.

Apparently the first journal to be published west of the Mississippi (and barely west at that) was the COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL IN THE INTEREST OF NUMISMATICS AND PHILATELY published in Kansas City, Missouri by W. E. Winner in January 1875. Its Kansas City life was limited, however. In July, 1876 J. J. Casey of New York took over the journal's publication which was published until August 1877 for a total of 32 issues.

Another periodical of note was the NUMISMATIC PILOT subtitled TO ANCIENT COINS AND THEIR USES produced by Robert Morris in LaGrange, Kentucky in November 1876. This newspaper-like periodical apparently was the first in the United States to be devoted exclusively to the study of ancient coinage. However, it apparently only ran for 4 issues ending in June 1877. Additionally, in the first issue Morris noted that "THE NUMISMATIC PILOT is published monthly as the organ of

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS", in what must have been another early attempt, in name if not in fact, at creating a national numismatic organization.

Another interesting development involved two periodicals. THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL IN THE INTEREST OF COINS AND CURIOSITY COLLECTORS, produced in Boston by L. S. Drowne in North Adams, Massachusetts ran for 6 monthly issues from August 1877 to January 1878. It began with a "Salutory" giving a brief, serious history of the current growth of coin collecting in America, and stating his intent to produce a useful periodical. Also in January 1878, another periodical THE JERSEY COIN JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COIN & CURIOSITY COLLECTORS debuted. Edited by Lewis C Boysen in Egg Harbor, New Jersey, it only ran for one issue. Perhaps that might be attributable to Boysen's "Prospectus" having been taken virtually word for word from Drowne's "Salutory". This certainly must have been one of the earliest and boldest examples of plagiarism in American numismatic journalism.

September 17, 1875 was the date of the first, and only, appearance of THE CURIOSITY SHOP AND ANTIQUARY published in the interests of American Local Archaeology and for the benefit of the Ladies' Fair of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. The four page newspaper in Irvington, New York was of special importance as it appears to be the first print appearance of its editor Edouard Frossard, who wrote, "... however much engrossed in active business our best citizens may be, they yet find time and occasion to cultivate tastes not in themselves utilitarian, and that among these tastes, the study of American antiquities holds a not unimportant position."

Less than three months later on December 1, 1875, THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL (CCJ) produced by J. W. Scott & Co. debuted with Ed. Frossard as its editor in which position he remained for the first 12 issues of Volume I. David Proskey succeeded Frossard as the editor of CCJ, a position he kept for the remaining 12 years of the periodical. Scott & Co., which had established itself in philatelic publications about stamps of the world, used the CCJ to provide information about foreign and ancient coinage. However, this widely distributed national periodical provided important information about American numismatics including serial articles about American tokens and medals, and accounts of the current numismatic scene including auctions. Beginning with issue 48 in November 1879, Proskey began a series describing in detail, with pertinent factual and historical information, about all of the then recognized varieties of large cents and half cents. These articles formed the basis of Doughty's THE CENTS OF THE UNITED STATES which was published in 1890. Additionally, with Scott's extensive mailing list from its philatelic sources, the CCJ delivered numismatic information throughout North America. Thus collectors who were not in the traditional eastern collecting areas were able to gain access to the American numismatic mainstream.

After Ed. Frossard left Scott, he began to produce NUMISMA, one of the truly great American numismatic periodicals. This classic house organ was issued from January 1877 through December 1891 in 10 volumes consisting of 60 numbers in 59 issues (one issue was a combined number) totalling 500 pages. The first nine volumes were issued bi-monthly, with the final volume issued over a five year period.

George Kole wrote the following was printed about NUMISMA in his catalogue of the Ted Craige Sale (*14), August 13, 1983, lot 69:

Clain Stefanelli 309. Adams, p. 68: "Frossard opened his own business in 1877 and initiated his own periodical, NUMISMA. This latter, undoubtedly the most lively publication of its kind, provides us with an intimate glimpse into the hobby as it and its personalities then existed. The editor deals out praise to his friends but doesn't hesitate to flog offending competitors, a list which includes Scott, Proskey (he of the India rubber conscience), Mason, Steigerwalt, Woodward and the Chapmans, among others."

NUMISMA is particularly important as an authoritative record of American numismatics from

1877 to 1891 bridging the period from the ending of Atinelli's NUMISGRAPHICS (1876) to the earliest years of the NUMISMATIST. Primarily devoted to American numismatics, the monographs also included topics on ancient and foreign coins and medals. A few specific articles were "The Starred Cent, 1794" a series on Sutlers' checks, "French American Colonial Coinage of 1670", "French American Colonial Jetons", "U.S. Pattern Coins Their Illegal Issue and Sale, and the Ineffectual Efforts of Numismatists to Check It", "Early Days of the United States Mint".

Further, each issue contained detailed accounts of contemporary auction sales, book reviews, "Numismatic Gossip", correspondence, proceedings of some numismatic societies, and fixed price offerings of coins. Some specific matters which were dealt with were Frossard's scathing attack on the Chapmans' Bushnell sale, discoveries of 1804 dollars and new varieties of coins, and the questionable practices of the United States mint. Far from being dry reading, many of Frossard's biting opinions about some of his contemporaries today would be considered libelous. He did, however, have his favorites: Ed Cogan, S. K. Harzfeld, and William Strobridge. Complete sets of NUMISMA are quite rare. We estimate that no more than 10 complete, original sets exist. In 1983 Remy Bourne reprinted 100 copies of NUMISMA, 31 of which THE MONEY TREE had bound in brown cloth and sold in 1990.

The last significant entry of the decade was Charles Steigerwalt's THE COIN JOURNAL. Steigerwalt produced 12 numbers of this periodical between April 1878 and July 1882. Among the useful articles were one on half cents, and the 1794 starred reverse cent. Apparently Steigerwalt's rare 1884 book, STEIGERWALT'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF UNITED STATES AND COLONIAL COINS, was a compilation of articles from THE COIN JOURNAL. He produced three other periodicals through 1909: STEIGERWALT'S COIN JOURNAL, NUMISMATIC NEWS, and THE CURIO. The periodicals featured valuable numismatic information, offers of coins at fixed prices, and discussion of the numismatic scene. Because Steigerwalt lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, considered at the time to be far from the eastern concentration of the hobby, most of his periodicals were distributed throughout the country as he attempted to cultivate a much wider, predominantly mail order market than the eastern coin dealers. That, along with his having produced periodicals irregularly over twenty years, has made the task of collecting his periodicals quite challenging.

It is also appropriate to note that in 1872 the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montreal began producing THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL. Although THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN was obviously not a United States numismatic periodical, the growth and expansion of U. S. numismatics did not stop at the Canadian border. THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN, which featured much still significant research on early Canadian and North American numismatics, continued through 1933, although there were significant interruptions in its publication schedule.

The 1870's found the numismatic periodical establishing itself as an important, indispensable component of numismatics largely because of the influence and success of three of them. The AJN continued its growth. The introduction of Scott's COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL helped numismatics to reach a national audience. The lively writing and scholarship of Frossard's NUMISMA raised the numismatic periodical to a higher level. It is especially noteworthy that each of these journals was exclusively about numismatics, unlike the earlier years when numismatics was merely a part of philatelic periodicals.

THE 1880's

With interest in numismatics expanding throughout the country in the previous decade largely because of the influence of numismatic and philatelic/numismatic periodicals, one of the effects was the proliferation of new periodicals. Of note is that many started in regions that formerly had

no concentration of numismatic activity. It is also important to note that the vast majority of the new periodicals were quite short-lived. However, their general lack of success notwithstanding, the periodicals do provide a record of how extensively numismatics was expanding throughout the country.

For example, 3 periodicals were produced in Ohio: R. W. Mercer's THE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE from Cincinnati in July 1881, Will Clemens' THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP in Cleveland which ran for 57 issues between December 1882 and 1890, and THE CURIOSITY COLLECTOR from Oberlin which only lasted for 3 issues between February and May 1883.

Not only were periodicals being started in many new states, but it is also interesting to note how many of them started in small towns, not unlike today's COIN WORLD from Sidney, Ohio, and NUMISMATIC NEWS and the other Krause periodicals from Iola, Wisconsin. For example, THE AMATEUR'S JOURNAL started in Mechanic Falls, Maine; THE GRANITE FALLS PHILATELIST: DEVOTED TO STAMPS, COINS, AND CURIOSITIES from Lake Village, New Hampshire; THE NASHVILLE COIN NEWS and THE SOUTHERN COLLECTOR both of Nashville, Tennessee; CRAYTON'S OCCASIONAL of Anderson, South Carolina; THE EXCHANGE from Adrian, Michigan; THE [CHARITON] GAZETTE from Chariton, Iowa; THE COLLECTOR'S BI-MONTHLY from Manchester, Michigan; THE SOUTHERN COLLECTOR, later THE ALABAMA COLLECTOR from Tuskegee, Alabama; THE HAWKEYE STATE COLLECTOR from Wyoming, Iowa; ONE DIME from Salem, Indiana; THE KENTUCKY STAMP MAGAZINE from Covington, Kentucky; and of particular note THE GOLDEN STATE SCIENTIST, A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO ZOOLOGY, GEOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY, BOTANY, NUMISMATICS, AND PHILATELY produced in Riverside, California. Although the October 1886 issue was the only one produced, it apparently was the first periodical dealing with numismatics to be published in California. Also, numerous other periodicals were started in upstate New York, in Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey.

The successful periodicals in the decade were still the AJN, Scott's COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL which ended in 1887, Frossard's NUMISMA, and Mason's and Steigerwalt's individual periodicals. However, despite there being over 50 periodicals which were created in the 1880's, only one which started in that decade continued for any appreciable length of time.

The one periodical which debuted in the decade that achieved significant longevity originated in the unlikely hamlet of Monroe, Michigan where a local doctor decided to start a modest numismatic monthly. Dr. George Francis Heath produced on a hand press approximately 200 copies of a 6 by 8 inch, four page leaflet called THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST with the first issue dated September-October 1888. In the February 1891 issue Dr. Heath asked a question whose answer soon afterward significantly and positively altered the development of American numismatics, "What's the matter with having an American Numismatic Association?"

With the third volume "AMERICAN" was dropped from the title, apparently because Dr. Heath learned about an earlier periodical with the same name. Between September 1886 and December 1887, Charles E. Leal of Paterson New Jersey published 12 issues of a periodical also called THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST. Therefore, what we now call THE NUMISMATIST has continued for over a century.

Also of note was the appearance of a periodical called PLAIN TALK, FOR BOYS & GIRLS AT SCHOOL AND HOME, IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF with the first issue dated April 15, 1885. PLAIN TALK continued for 84 issues in 11 volumes until October 1892. Soon after Dr. Heath proposed the creation of an American Numismatic Association, Charles Tatman, the editor of the numismatic section of PLAIN TALK, began corresponding with Dr. Heath about the actual creation of an American Numismatic Association, which would be formed at a meeting in Chicago in October 1891. The significance of PLAIN TALK is that it, and not THE NUMISMATIST, was initially named to be the official organ of the A.N.A., an honor which it held for only one year.

It also must be emphasized that THE NUMISMATIST did not become the property of the A.N.A. immediately. Dr. Heath owned the magazine until his death June 16, 1908. Soon afterward, Farran Zerbe, with the approval of the A.N.A. Board of Governors, personally purchased the magazine from Dr. Heath's estate. Finally, at the 1910 A.N.A. convention in New York the association voted to acquire THE NUMISMATIST from Zerbe. It is ironic that a Canadian, W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, purchased the magazine which he donated to the AMERICAN Numismatic Association. Today, a completely original set of THE NUMISMATIST, of which perhaps 20 are known, is generally considered to be the centerpiece of a truly prestigious library of American numismatic literature.

By the end of 1890, Scott's COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL, Frossard's NUMISMA, and Mason's periodicals all had ceased publication. Steigerwalt's periodicals continued sporadically under various names. The CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN was continuing, however with significantly decreased attention focusing on numismatics. Therefore, the next decade began with only two numismatic periodicals still being regularly published in the United States: the AJN and THE NUMISMATIST.

THE 1890's

The 1890's found little new occurring with numismatic periodicals. In fact while during the 1880's over 50 periodicals were introduced that had at least some involvement with numismatics, barely one third as many new titles were introduced this decade. Additionally, other than two new titles by Mason and by Steigerwalt, none were of real significance or substance. This is probably true for three different reasons. First, THE NUMISMATIST and the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS had become truly national numismatic periodicals. Thus, there was no longer a real need for the small, regional periodical. Second, THE NUMISMATIST carried advertising which reached a national audience. Consequently, it made much more sense to advertise in THE NUMISMATIST than to go through the time, the trouble, and the expense of starting a new periodical. Finally, and perhaps most important, the contributors to THE NUMISMATIST and the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS tended to be the leading and the most authoritative numismatists of the day. In comparison, other periodicals found themselves with little to offer.

One short lived periodical of note was THE COIN & STAMP, DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO NUMISMATICS AND PHILATELY produced in San Antonio, Texas produced by Dr. J. B. Breeding. Despite its lifespan of only 2 issues - January and February of 1892 - it represented the first periodical dealing with numismatics to be produced in Texas.

Also of note was THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL, A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS of which 9 issues were produced between January 15, 1892 and April 1893 in Middlebury, Connecticut. Of significance was the way in which the editor thought to list himself on the cover - "Edited by C. H. Trask. Member of the American Numismatic Association." Trask was probably one of the first members to use his A.N.A. membership to add to his credibility.

Finally, Chas. Steigerwalt made a significant change in his approach to the periodical. He had resumed producing a periodical for the first time in 11 years, introducing NUMISMATIC NEWS in March 1895. In newspaper format, the first issue included observations about the auction scene, a correction indicating that only two and not three "Strawberry Leaf" 1793 cents were known, and a recommendation to purchase The Numismatist. However, apparently only 3 issues were produced through September 1895. With the last issue in February 1896 being a four page "Cheap Price List", for all intents and purposes, Steigerwalt abandoned the periodical form and chose to concentrate on producing fixed price lists.

THE 1900's

The 1900's were quite significant because two giants made their first appearances on the numismatic scene, Thomas Lindsay Elder and B. Max Mehl. Additionally, while both were known primarily for their commercial successes, both also produced significant numismatic periodicals.

Elder produced his first periodical, THE ELDER MONTHLY, DEVOTED TO THINGS NUMISMATIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC, PHILATELIC, HISTORIC, ANTIQUE, ETC., in March 1906, 3 years after conducting his first auction. 19 issues of the magazine were produced over the next two years. Afterwards Elder continued with two other periodicals - THE NUMISMATIC PHILISTINE in 1909 and THE ELDER MAGAZINE in 1910. Elder was quite knowledgeable and most outspoken. The magazine featured numismatic news of the day with Elder's pointed observations, articles about numismatic and antiquarian matters by Elder and others, proceedings of numismatic societies, classified and display ads, and Elder's legendary list of "Historical Coin Collectors" - "The following worthies have 'passed into history' as having in one way or another acted unfairly with coin cataloguers and dealers".

MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY is arguably the most underappreciated periodical in American numismatic history. It was published from 1908 to 1919 in ten volumes. Mehl suspended publication after the December 1911 issue because he planned to move his business to New York City from San Antonio "to attain the success which I have every cause to believe my efforts deserve." However, he soon returned to San Antonio, apparently without having operated in New York at all. The MONTHLY resumed publication with the January 1914 issue. George Kolbe in his 1984 sale with Spink wrote of The MONTHLY, "an underrated source of information, the MONTHLY is especially rich with word sketches of turn of the century American numismatists, often accompanied by individual or group photos." The magazine featured important articles by prominent numismatists about all aspects of numismatics, emphasizing American coinage. A special feature was that each year after the A.N.A., the magazine offered a detailed, most entertaining account of the convention. Perhaps people have falsely assumed that MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY was exclusively one more example of Mehl's penchant for self-promotion. However, this periodical compared quite favorably with the AJN and THE NUMISMATIST as the best numismatic periodicals of the time. It must also be emphasized that Mehl was the first major numismatic figure outside of the major commercial centers to achieve great success over an extended period of time.

Finally, a small periodical of the time deserves some comment. THE UNIVERSAL EXCHANGE MAGAZINE was produced in Belvidere, Illinois in four issues between December 1904 and March 1905 by George A. Russ. The significant feature of this modest magazine was that included in its third issue, February 1905, was a photograph of the delegates to the 1904 A.N.A. convention in St. Louis.

THE 1910'S

In this decade, only five new periodicals appeared. And only one of them was truly significant. The COIN AND MEDAL BULLETIN produced by Edgar Adams and Wayte Raymond, ran for 11 issues between April 1916 and March 1917. It was a monthly except for the July-August 1916 combined issue. The first issue was introduced with the following statement:

A Purely American Numismatic Magazine

The need of a monthly numismatic publication that would deal with Coins, Medals, and Tokens which have been issued in North and South America has been felt for a long time.

Numerous publications bearing upon various phases of American numismatics have been issued, yet there remain many series of coins that have never been mentioned at all, or, if so, only in the most meagre manner. Oftentimes in the publications cited above references have been made to certain pieces, but the proper illustrations have been lacking.

The aim of the publishers will be to supply these deficiencies, so far as practicable, and to issue articles, properly illustrated, in a manner complete enough to be of numismatic value.

Special features included a profusely illustrated, detailed checklist of Civil War tradesmen's tokens of Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan; coins from both Raymond's United States Coin Co. and from Adams for sale at fixed prices; articles about Latin American coinage; "A Descriptive List of Die Varieties of U. S. Silver Coinage".

The March 1917 issue began with the announcement:

The Coin & Medal Bulletin Discontinued.

We had hoped ... that there would be a need for a publication which would be ... strictly devoted to numismatic subjects, and particularly those associated with the countries of the Western hemisphere. We must confess that the support we have received has not been so extensive as we would have liked and which would have made possible the continuance of our publication by defraying at least a fair proportion of the expense involved.

We are by no means discouraged, however, and THE BULLETIN will reappear, we hope, at a date not very distant when condition will be more favorable.

The lack of support to which Adams and Raymond referred can be attested to by the scarcity of even individual issues of this periodical, much less the significant rarity of complete sets. That two such prominent and experienced numismatists were unable to make a success of their worthy periodical is a good barometer of why there were so few journals started during the 'teens.

Another of the decade's periodicals deserves mentioning. The COLLECTOR'S BLUE BOOK. A MONTHLY ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE FOR COLLECTORS consisted of 13 consecutive monthly issues which began in December 1913. The May 1914 issue indicated that it was the official organ of the American Society of Coin Collectors, one more ill-fated attempt to create another national numismatic organization.

The paucity of new periodicals can also be attributed to the effects of the war despite the United States' having entered the war so late. One must expect that the war put a damper on numismatics, among other activities, in much the same way as the next war would.

THE 1920's

Few periodicals dealing with numismatics were initiated during the 1920's. Thomas Elder attempted two new journals, neither which proved successful: THE ANCIENT ARTS which dealt with coins, glass, and antiquities, and of which only one issue is known; and THE COLLECTOR'S NOTES which was issued occasionally in 1926 and 1927. Bourne lists 6 issues of which 3 were included at the rear of Elder auction catalogues.

Between 1922, 3 years after the end of MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, and 1933, Mehl produced MEHL'S COIN CIRCULAR. Although this small publication was primarily a glorified fixed price list, occasional articles were included which generally dealt with Mehl's observations, purchases, and travels. Thirteen issues were produced between 1922 and 1928. After a four year interruption, two more issues were produced, one in 1932 and the last in 1933.

In the mid-1920's, Wayne Raymond began a new periodical, THE COIN AND MEDAL BULLETIN. THE NEW SERIES. Although the February 1925 issue was listed as number 8, we have no evidence of how many issues were actually released. Little is known about this periodical. Bourne can only

account for two issues. It would seem that Raymond's second attempt at creating a periodical was also commercially unsuccessful although he would soon find great success with this medium.

Another important, but scarce periodical of the period was GUTTAG'S COIN BULLETIN which was lasted for 14 issues in 1928 and 1929. The first issue (March 1928) was listed as Volume 6, Number 1, but there were no earlier issues. Apparently the Gutttag Brothers considered their prior mailings and circulars to be the first five volumes in their numbering system.

Usually about half of each issue consisted of several illustrated articles about various aspects of numismatics with the remaining half being a fixed price list of coins, medals, and /or tokens. The articles covered ancient, European, Latin-American, and United States coinage, and included various short sections about interesting numismatic miscellany.

In December 1929 they released their last issue where they announced, "... with the growth of other departments of our business it is no longer possible to give the preparation of material for the Bulletin the attention it merits." They also announced that they were erecting their own building which they were planning on moving into about March 1930. With their intended reorganization they were going to suspend most of the activities of their coin department except for essentially rare and expensive coins. Instead they were going to "specialize in the purchase and sale of bank and security stocks and other unlisted securities." In view of the timing, it was a rather unfortunate decision as Gutttag Brothers suffered severe financial reverses.

Finally, in 1924 the American Numismatic Society ceased publishing the AJN. Instead, the A.N.S. decided to concentrate on the NUMISMATIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPH series which they began in 1921. Thus, by the end of the decade, THE NUMISMATIST had become the only significant national numismatic periodical still publishing.

THE 1930's

Clearly, the Depression crippled numismatics in the first half of the thirties. Long time dealers dropped out of the market. Advertisers severely cut back the quantity of their advertising in THE NUMISMATIST. Few of Thomas Elder's auction sales had the importance and quality of his earlier efforts. Max Mehl only conducted 12 auctions between 1931 and 1939.

In the first five years of the thirties only six new periodicals having anything to do with numismatics began. With the exception of Wayte Raymond's THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL, only THE OLD COIN NEWS produced by the Star Company in New York City lasted even one year. As the Depression affected all other aspects of numismatics, common sense dictated that beginning a numismatic periodical would not be a wise entrepreneurial decision.

However, beginning in 1934 the issuance of commemorative coins in the last half of the decade revitalized the hobby, largely from people who previously had not been involved with coin collecting. Also, in 1936 attention was refocused on numismatics with the mint's resuming production of proof sets. Through the end of 1934, the A.N.A. had assigned membership numbers through 4600, with about 200 new members a year having joined since 1900. However, by January 1939 membership number 7209 had already been assigned (to Al C. Overton), a 50 percent increase in only four years.

The numismatic revitalization saw two significant entries to the periodical field: THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL produced by Wayte Raymond in New York and the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE produced by Lee F. Hewitt, Jr. in Chicago.

April 1934 saw the first issue of THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL (CCJ) published by Scott Stamp and Coin, and edited by Wayte Raymond. Raymond took over as the publisher in 1939. Beginning in 1940 the CCJ truly became a periodical rather than a quasi-house organ. The journal ran through

1951 in 18 volumes consisting of 139 numbered issues. Bi-monthly from 1952 to 1954, a series of 17 special monographs were produced each devoted to a single topic. Finally two other monographs were produced in 1958 bringing the CCJ to an end with 160 numbers in 158 issues. This important journal is vastly underappreciated today.

THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL, contained illustrated articles by prominent numismatists: Edgar Adams on early mint issues, Newell on ancients, Howland Wood, Wismer, Raymond on Latin American and on store cards, John Ford on authenticating colonials and on Crosby's COINS OF AMERICA, Phares Sigler's series on colonials, the later reprinted J.P. Morgan collection of Ancient Greek coinage. Also included were features on coinages of various foreign countries which later were incorporated in Raymond's COIN OF THE WORLD reference books. In fact, it is generally unknown that Clapp's important 1941 monograph UNITED STATES CENTS 1804-1814 first appeared as an article in the December 1934 issue. There were also several supplements produced which contained lists of coins and currency for sale. The supplements are quite scarce.

Also between February 1936 and October of 1940 Raymond produced 16 issues of COIN TOPICS which might be more accurately described as a house organ. "It is our purpose to make it more than a 'price list'. We are going to tell the stories and incidents connected with the many interesting coins you may have, or wish to have, in your collection.... We would appreciate knowing your opinion of our form of advertising."

The NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE (NSM) debuted with the January 1935 issue, an 8 page issue of 4 by 5 inches. Only 200 copies of the first issue were produced. In the January 1960 issue of the NSM, Hewitt looked back on the magazine's first 25 years. Hewitt noted that the NSM was "the first independent English language numismatic periodical to reach its silver anniversary." In fact it would continue for a total 480 issues through February 1976. Hewitt mentioned that the original idea behind the magazine was for it actually to be a "'scrapbook' - to reprint pertinent portions of rare and out-of-print books together with a digest of current numismatic news." For example, the first volume, of six issues, contained reprinted sections of Doughty's THE CENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the same 1960 issue, Hewitt succinctly described the NSM. "It has been the privilege of the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE to publish numerous articles which have since become standard references on the subjects covered." Significant, classic articles written by prominent numismatists graced its pages over its 40 year lifetime: Walter Breen on just about everything numismatic, R. S. Yeoman on colonials, the Fuld's on storecards and tokens, R. W. Julian on early American coinage and the United States mint, and John Muscalus on paper money, among many others. Some of the other prominent writers whose works appeared were John Davenport, Eric Newman, Arlie Slabaugh, Major Sheldon Carroll, Lynn Glaser, Maurice Gould, Cornelius Vermeule. Also regular feature columns were written by Ted Schwarz, Tom De Lorey, and Hank Spangenberg, among others. Many of the articles were later published separately in the tan card covered Hewitt Information Series.

However, the NSM's special importance was its serving as THE national numismatic advertising medium. Hewitt recalled that the NSM "began to be known as the Wall Street Journal of the coin trade." Although most issues rarely exceeded 40 pages of text, it was not unusual for the issues through the 1950's and 1960's to have well over 150 pages of advertising from the largest and most prestigious dealers having multi-page ads offering grand rarities to the smallest classified ads by private collectors offering the most humble collector coins.

One must realize that 50 years ago many collectors lived in areas which did not have a front-line local coin dealer or coin club, and thus were isolated from general numismatic activity. Also, one must remember that coin shows were virtually unknown; coin conventions were fewer, far less accessible, and in most cases total attendance was quite small. For many, the window to the numismatic world was the monthly arrival of the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE. The NSM

let the collector order the rare coins to which he would otherwise not have access. It also let the collector comparison shop for those commemoratives, proof and mint sets, rolls, and double date cents.

THE 1940's

The most important numismatic periodical to debut in the 1940's was the NUMISMATIC REVIEW. A SCIENTIFIC DIGEST PERTAINING TO MEDALS. PAPER MONEY which was produced by Stack's in New York. 16 numbers in 14 issues were released which were dated between June 1943 and April-October 1947 which did not actually correspond to the actual release dates. The first issue listed Thomas Ollive Mabbott as the Editor and Hans Holzer Assistant Editor. In 1945 Cornelius Vermeule was listed as an assistant editor. By 1947 Frederick Knobloch was the Assistant Editor with Harry Stein as the Associate Editor. Its purpose was stated in the first issue:

"The NUMISMATIC REVIEW will endeavor to supply a long felt need of America numismatists, providing a channel for the publication of serious and authoritative articles by specialists in every field. It is not our purpose to rival or supplant other periodicals, but ... to devote our pages mainly to what other periodicals at present either do not cover, or cover only incidentally. In some senses, it is hoped to revive some of the virtues of the old AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS.

The REVIEW was rather equally divided among ancient, world, and U. S. coins and medals. Among the prominent contributors on American numismatica were Howard Newcomb on half dime varieties, Howard Kurth on "the 'Auctori Plebis' Coppers", Mabbott on all facets of coinage including varieties of 1795 eagles, Joseph Stack on a history of counterfeiting, Lenox Lohr on "U.S. Copper Patterns of the 1820's", John Richardson on "Varieties of Connecticut Cents", a long unsigned article about "Double Eagles of 1933 Not Lawful Coin", and "Untraced Curiosities in the American Colonial Series" by John Jay Ford, Jr. Other contributors included Carl Wurtzbach and Howard Gibbs. In addition to the scholarly articles, there were book reviews, correspondence, and observations of the numismatic scene.

Finally, the April 1947 number contained a "Valedictory" in which Mabbott wrote, "After much consideration, it has been decided to suspend publication" Mabbott's farewell was dated December 16, 1948 which reflected the Review's irregular publishing schedule.

The NUMISMATIC REVIEW, which since its demise has been referred to by many as being "ahead of its time", is generally considered to be one of the finest American numismatic periodicals, ever.

THE ESSAY PROOF JOURNAL. THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ESSAY-PROOF SOCIETY, was introduced with the January 1944 issue. Recently, the society announced that its publication would cease at the end of the year with the completion of its fiftieth year. Its stated purpose was "the promotion of collecting and study of the essays and proofs of stamps and paper money." While its primary contents have always been devoted to philately, the journal has still been the source of many, important articles on U. S. paper money and bank note engravers. The profusely illustrated, glossy quarterly consists of feature and serial articles, book reviews, proceedings, and advertising from prominent philatelic dealers. Complete sets of the journal are quite rare, bringing heavy attention and strong prices whenever one should be offered.

Another periodical worthy of comment was FRANK CAUSEY WILSON'S MONTHLY COIN BULLETIN for which Bourne lists 12 monthly issues from April 1945 to March 1946. It consisted primarily of display ads for many mail order dealers including Raymond, Federal Coin Exchange, Kenneth Lee, Clint Hester, M. Powills and others not so prominent. Its special feature was that each issue contained a biography of a different numismatist such as Lee, Frank Katon, Hans Schulman,

and also of Whitman Publishing. Even individual issues of this Chicago based periodical have become scarce.

Thus, as America moved into fifties, the primary numismatic periodical of the period was the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK followed by THE NUMISMATIST and THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL. The other numismatic periodicals of the period were either short-lived, undistinguished, or primarily advertising mediums.

THE 1950's

The 1950's saw the development of two trends: first, the groundwork was laid for a numismatic magazine which would be mass marketed and sold on newsstands. The general public's receptiveness to these new periodicals was largely attributable to several factors which were publicized in the public press, rather than through numismatic channels: the mint's resuming production of proof sets, the recent changes in the designs on the dime and half dollar, and the publicity involving the "rarity" of the 1950-D nickel. Second, numismatic periodicals devoted to non-U.S. coinage began to appear. This was the beginning of the trend toward specialized numismatic periodicals that would flourish in the next decade.

Early in 1955, Spiers Welsh of Bloomfield, New Jersey introduced a periodical named YOU NAME IT. PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF COIN COLLECTORS AND DEALERS in which, rather obviously, he asked the readers to give it a name. The July issue saw the magazine being named THE FLYING EAGLET with Frank Spadone joining Welsh. After going through a series of name changes and takeovers, this periodical would become COINS MAGAZINE in January 1962. Thus, this mass marketed periodical was targeted to a much larger, but less expert, public. Several other publications which remain prominent today would soon be started to compete for the same audience, the most successful of which was COINAGE. COINAGE, however, did not originate as a monthly periodical. It began as a quarterly with its first issue dated Winter 1964; the second was dated Spring 1965. Soon afterward, it became a monthly.

Also, three periodicals specifically targeted at the world coin collector were started: THE CROWN & TALER, THE FAR EAST NUMISMATIC DIGEST, and WORLD COIN BULLETIN. Nat Litwer's THE CROWN & TALER ran from 1955 through part of 1958 although copies of individual issues, much less complete sets, are quite scarce. Alan Craig's THE FAR EAST NUMISMATIC DIGEST ran for only two issues in 1957. Of special note was AMERY'S FOREIGN COIN BULLETIN edited by Charles Amery of Peoria, Illinois, which debuted in October 1959. With the third issue of 1960, its name was changed to the WORLD COIN BULLETIN and continued until its last issue in March 1963. The Sidney Printing and Publishing Company then purchased the WORLD COIN BULLETIN and changed its name to WORLD COINS whose first issue was dated January 1964. Edited by Russell Rulau for over a decade, WORLD COINS became the first significant, successful American publication devoted exclusively to world coins.

Some mention should also be made about a few other important publications. New Netherlands' NUMISMA produced by John Ford and Walter Breen, and the NUMISMATIC GALLERY MONTHLY (which began in 1948) produced by the two A.K.'s (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) which continued later as KOSOFF'S COIN BULLETIN. Despite each of the publications containing significant numismatic information, I tend to consider them to be house organs as they were primarily sales lists, whereas Remy feels that they are more precisely periodicals.

Also of note was the appearance of the NUMISMATIC NEWS in 1952. While this newspaper was not a weekly until 1969, the NUMISMATIC NEWS does hold the honor of being this country's longest continuing numismatic newspaper.

Thus, as the 1950's concluded, an explosion for numismatics in America, and concomitantly for the

American numismatic periodical, was on the horizon.

THE 1960's

A variety of factors were responsible for the significant increase in numismatic activity in the sixties. Again, the boom was caused by a series of factors which affected the public as a whole, and not by actions within the numismatic community. First, the new reverse on the 1959 cent made the public aware of their coinage again. This was soon followed by the publicity generated by the 1960 small date cent. Second, the introduction of the Kennedy half created a public fervor for the new coin.

An additional factor which increased numismatic activity was the elimination of silver in our coinage which also focused people's attention on their pocket change. Also, in the sixties periodically there was a "change" shortage, making people again quite aware of their pocket change. Next, the publicity generated by the proposed 1964 silver Peace dollar also served to attract people's attention to numismatics. Two more significant factors were the Treasury's release of the formerly rare 1903-0 and scarce 1904-0 silver dollars, and the numismatic market's boom in rolls. Finally, with the significant increase in both leisure time and discretionary income due to the country's prosperity, Americans were enthusiastically pursuing a variety of hobbies, numismatics included.

As the sixties began, the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK was the king of the numismatic periodicals, with THE NUMISMATIST continuing its prominent role. However, a bold experiment was about to be launched - a weekly newspaper devoted exclusively to numismatics; in March 1960 a "sample edition" of the proposed paper appeared - COIN WORLD Volume I, Number 0. The first weekly issue appeared soon afterward - the April 21, 1960 issue of COIN WORLD. With its first 1969 issue, Krause's NUMISMATIC NEWS also became a weekly, temporarily adopting the name NUMISMATIC NEWS WEEKLY. These two respected weeklies have revolutionized numismatics. The collector now was able to get his numismatic information in a timely manner; each published current price trends; also the large quantity and great variety of display and classified advertising provided the collector a potpourri of choices every week. It is most noteworthy that each of these two weeklies has continued without interruption into the nineties.

With the January 1964 issue the WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL debuted. Edited by R. S. Yeoman, this quality monthly would continue for 60 issues until its demise in December 1968. In the first issue under "Why Another Coin Periodical?", Yeoman wrote,

Its purpose is to primarily lend aid and comfort to the thousands of loyal owners of our standard reference books which are issued a year or more apart. A year is a long interval between editions - made to seem longer by the quickening pace of the coin market and the stepped-up flow of new issues of foreign governments.

The first four issues were subtitled "A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO ALL WHITMAN STANDARD COIN REFERENCE BOOKS". However, the May 1964 issue appeared with a new, more accurately descriptive subtitle, "A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO ALL PHASES OF NUMISMATICS." The contributing columnists were a veritable "Who's Who" of numismatics: Bolender, Bowers, Breen, Charlton, Glaser, Julian, Kenney, Newman, Taxay, Willey, and Yeoman. The features covered all aspects of numismatics, but with a special emphasis on North American numismatics. The December 1968 final issue mentioned that the Whitman was ceasing to publish the magazine to concentrate on their production of books and supplies. Unfortunately, no comparable numismatic periodical has yet replaced this marvelous magazine.

As we mentioned in the section on the 1950's, January 1964 saw the debut of the first issue of WORLD COINS. It was published by Amos Press, Inc. in Sidney, Ohio, the publishers of COIN

WORLD, who had purchased the WORLD COINS BULLETIN in March of 1963. Although the WORLD COINS BULLETIN had quite a limited circulation, WORLD COINS which was edited by Russell Rulau soon became the journal for the increasing number of collectors of world coins. Other than the Yeoman brown books and white books, no other significant or timely references existed for the rapidly growing number of world coin collectors. The section of advertising in the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK devoted to foreign coinage was quite limited. The first Krause "telephone book" would not be produced until 1972. The first issue of WORLD COIN NEWS would come even later.

Each issue of WORLD COINS featured a different theme: British Commonwealth, Moslem, Ancients, Gold, Currency, Latin America, Russia, Oriental, Germanic, and others. Not only were the feature articles written by experts, but also there were regular price trend charts for the coinage of various countries. Additionally, the numerous, quality ads were also a gold mine of information. 147 consecutive monthly issues of WORLD COINS were produced through March 1976 when, despite its being profitable, Amos publishing decided to cease publication "because of demand from readers for quicker information." (March 1976, page 3) It was decided to incorporate the magazine into a new section in COIN WORLD to be called "COIN WORLD INTERNATIONAL" where it continues today although it has never even remotely approached its previous quality or stature

Another classic periodical underwent a major change. In the April 1968 issue, with issue number 386, Amos Press took over the NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK from Lee Hewitt. By the end of the 1960's the NSM was still a vital publication. In fact, beginning in late 1974 under the editorship of Courtney Coffing the NSM consistently contained outstanding articles and numismatic columns. Sadly, the increase in quality was not sufficient to prevent its demise. With the February 1976 issue after 480 issues, as was done with WORLD COINS, the NSM ceased publication. The publisher stated that the NSM would be incorporated into Coin World. In fact, for a while the masthead of COIN WORLD contained the subheading "AND NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK". Thus, THE NUMISMATIST became the sole surviving "traditional" monthly numismatic periodical.

A significant trend that started in the 1960's was that several numismatic organizations devoted to specific collector interests began to issue quality periodicals which served as each organization's official journal. Many of these journals which were designed to reach a specialized, knowledgeable audience have survived and prospered for many years. Among the most prominent were the following which are each still being published:

In October 1960, James Spilman who later formed the Colonial Newsletter Foundation began THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER, which specialized in specialized research and information about colonial coins

In April 1961 The Society of Token, Medal, & Obsolete Paper Money Collectors (which became the Token and Medal Society later that year) produced the first copy of the JOURNAL OF THE TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY. The name TAMS JOURNAL appeared with the first issue of Volume 6 in 1966.

At the 1961 ANA, The Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC) was formed largely by those obsolete paper money collectors who originally were part of The Society of Token, Medal, & Obsolete Paper Money Collectors. They began to issue PAPER MONEY, their society's journal, late in 1961.

The Early American Coppers Club (EAC), formally organized in 1967, distributed the first issue of PENNY-WISE dated September 15, 1967. The more than 120 issues since have contained a potpourri of scholarly research, discoveries, surveys, and commentaries on the current numismatic scene with special emphasis on large cents.

In the autumn of 1967, the Civil War Token Society began the quarterly, JOURNAL OF THE CIVIL WAR TOKEN SOCIETY. In the Fall of 1977 it was renamed THE COPPERHEAD COURIER.

Additionally, Walter Breen and Lynn Glaser issued a little known periodical. The first issue of THE METROPOLITAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL was dated May-June 1961. The 16 page, small format, glossy, illustrated journal was published by the Metropolitan Coin Company. Intended to present "articles of interest to serious collectors in the early American field", apparently between 200 and 300 copies of the first issue were produced. The second issue, dated November 1961, was renamed THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL as Glaser took over the journal and withdrawing from the Metropolitan Coin Company which had moved to New York City where it was operated by Paul Weinstein. This issue was a rather low quality, mimeographed booklet. Apparently even fewer copies of the second issue were produced. Regardless, for whatever reason or reasons this independent, scholarly journal produced by two outstanding numismatic scholars only survived for the two issues.

Another noteworthy trend was reflected by a large number of other short-lived periodicals. Many were not serious attempts at numismatic journalism; rather they were concerned with trying to take advantage of the roll boom; others were merely conceived as a method to acquire names for mailing lists.

So, as the sixties ended the numismatic periodical was in excellent health. COIN WORLD and NUMISMATIC NEWS were reaching tens of thousands of collectors weekly. COINS and COINAGE had become newsstand staples. Three monthlies - THE NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK, THE NUMISMATIST, and WORLD COINS - were still quite significant numismatically. Finally, a variety of specialized periodicals all of which had originated during the sixties were being supported quite well by their targeted audience, a situation which continues today.

AFTERWORD

This historical overview quite obviously is merely a survey. While I have made every good faith attempt to deal fairly and properly with the history of the numismatic periodicals, I readily recognize that others may have valid disagreements with my judgments and conclusions.

Also, by necessity I have made various value judgments in deciding what to mention and what to omit. For example, I decided that the EMPIRE INVESTORS REPORTS and THE NUMISMATIC INVESTMENT BULLETIN of which one copy was produced in December 1963 were more precisely newsletters or house organs than periodicals. Consequently, I decided that the concept of coin investment was not relevant to the discussion of the periodical at this time. However, I can understand that disagreements with my interpretations have merit.

Next, I certainly do realize that decades begin with years ending in "1". However, I felt that using the more commonly employed, but technically incorrect, practice of beginning the decade with years ending in "0" tended to make the divisions more coherent.

Additionally, I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Remy Bourne and Armand Champa both of whom I bothered constantly for information about specific periodicals and for advice in preparing this overview. Also, I genuinely thank George Kolbe for giving me permission to quote from his authoritative catalogues.

I must emphasize that Remy's efforts in completing this systematic listing of periodicals are truly herculean. Essentially, he was working in virgin territory. While there have been writings on other aspects of numismatic literature, other than the listings in Clain-Stefanelli's SELECT NUMISMATIC BIBLIOGRAPHY which are by definition extremely "selective", no one previously had ever undertaken anything which even faintly approached this work on the numismatic periodical. Consequently, Remy was working on a quasi-"Star Trek" mission - going where no one has gone before.

Remy has spent an unbelievable amount of time and energy in preparing this work, not to mention a not insignificant quantity of money in assembling his collection of periodicals. Despite Remy's superior reference efforts, he realizes that the surface of the topic has only been scratched. Although Remy honestly believes that his efforts are of only modest importance, present and future researchers and writers about numismatic literature, especially those who will continue Remy's work, will find that what was formerly chaos now has some semblance of order.

A FAX

One day rather recently our FAX machine chirped and beeped with the following missive which we quote verbatim.

December 4, 1992
ATTN: Myron Xenos
Publisher
1260 Smith Court
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Dear Myron,

This communication is sent in regard to your establishment's recent emission, to wit: Fifteenth Mail Bid Sale (The Don Pfau numismatic library). Since the weather was inclement and I suffer from a mild case of the mania aimed at therein, I thought I might peruse your trite little publication in the hope of uncovering a nugget buried within it. What to my wondering eyes does appear but an irreverent commentary on this most serious of endeavors. I am shocked, truly shocked to discover frivolous conduct going on at Rick's ... er Myron's place.

Specifically, I direct your attention to the cataloger's commentary accompanying the description of lot 63 in the aforesaid sale. Mr. Overton's magnum opus is referred to as "clearly esoteric and of no real interest". The cataloguer goes on to classify bust halves as "ephemera", states that the author has "wasted his time", and aficionados of the genre are "nuts".

The time period 1796-1839 encompassing the issuances of Bust Halves is hardly a short time frame. The classical allegorical design of these coins harken back to a more idealistic time period in our nation's history, stretching from the terms of Washington through Jefferson to Jackson/Van Buren. During most of this time, the bust half was the highest value (non-gold) coin struck. It is composed of substantial silver (as in HI .. HO .. SILVER AWAYYYY!). In this current time of heightened interest in vampires, note this metal is a deterrent to their blood sucking activities.

The obverse design represents a level of artistic accomplishment of TETONIC proportions (as in Grand Tetons). Those of the male gender, not plagued by the weak wrist syndrome, generally have an oral fixation related to these grabables -- a fist full of early halves (an X-rated spaghetti western?). At high schools across the country, nubile cheerleaders conduct chants to our silver based coins (two bits, FOUR BITS, six bits, a dollar ...). The value is engraved in the nation's subconscious as the coast of the late Roger Williams' 8 x 12 lodgings. Mr. Overton's tome on this noble subject, while not aspiring to the aristocratic heights of auric legal tender, attracts the gentile, educated aficionados, clearly unlike the graveling cabal of low brow, sniveling fanatics who refer to a blackened non-descript shard of stamped non precious metal as having a fine chocolate patina.

Even if the cataloguer's ravings had any semblance of reason, he fails the PC test (that's Politically Correct). There are no more 'nuts', only the mentally/emotionally challenged.

I'm sure you will see to the proper reprimand and remedial chores for this cataloguer's transgressions.

Sincerely,

Immunis Reich Scot
AA, BS, BSEE, MBA, JD
Recognized expert witness

THE DENNIS MENDELSON SALE OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE AS VIEWED BY CHRIS VICTOR-MC CAWLEY

Soon after the second and last (of the three that were promised) issues of OUT ON A LIMB went to the printer late last year, I received a copy of Chris Victor-McCawley's November 1992 illustrated fixed price list of Early American coppers. Not only do Mr. Victor-McCawley's lists feature magnificent and important coins, but they are also extensively, authoritatively, and meticulously catalogued. Also of significance, his lists feature compelling, extensive commentary and narrative on things both numismatic and non-numismatic.

In this particular issue, Mr V-M wrote extensively (pages 94-97) of his experiences in and observations of George Kolbe's (superbly catalogued and presented) sale of the magnificent Dennis Mendelson collection of numismatic literature. I was so impressed with Mr. V-M's unique perspective and observations that I immediately phoned him (even before the long distance rates went down) to ask if I might quote from his article for the LIMB. He generously agreed. An so with Chris's permission, here are excerpts from the article:

[Chris with Tony Terranova attended the sale held October 17 and 18, 1992 at the Kolbe manse]

A hundred years from now when examples from this sale surface, collectors will recognize the outstanding quality and the beautiful binding as a hallmark of books from the Mendelson collection. An they will pay a commensurate premium for them. I heard a few comments, both before and after the sale, about Dennis' "getting in and getting out." about his "taking a bath" on the collection. Well, it seems it is ever the same. Those who do nothing, attempt nothing, accomplish nothing are always quick to critique those who do.

Those who criticize Dennis' method just don't get it. I have known and worked with Dennis for many years. He is not a hoarder or a speculator. He does not think of himself as an investor. Nor would I classify him as a connoisseur although he has always bought the finest quality available to him. I would rather classify Dennis as a student. A person passionate enough to know as much as possible, as soon as possible about any subject that captures his interest.

I know relatively little about numismatic literature, but I figure I know a little bit about people. That is why Tony turned to me in the midst of bidding on one of the plated Chapmans and shouted, "You moron, you're paying too much!" I had to laugh. Hey I stopped bidding on the catalog two bids ago. Now, I'm buying the pedigree.

Chris is a most affable, down-to-earth gentleman. In addition to issuing quality fixed price lists, he and Bob Grellman also conduct important auctions of early American coppers. Chris may be reached at P.O. Box 2967, Edmond, Oklahoma 73083, (405) 341-2213.

THREE IMPORTANT NUMISMATIC REFERENCE WORKS DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE MONEY TREE

We are taking orders now for three publications of interest to numismatic bibliophiles, each of which is mandatory for any numismatic library. **THE MONEY TREE** is the exclusive distributor for each.

[1] The first offering is a limited reprint handpriced edition produced by **THE MONEY TREE** of the rare, classic 1883 John Haseltine auction catalogue of the **SYLVESTER S. CROSBY** Collection of Early Colonial Coins of America. Only 50 numbered, regular-paper copies of the 92 page small format catalogue were produced. The 10 thick-paper copies are sold-out.

Only a handful of the originals of this catalogue ever turn up in the marketplace, maybe six in the decade - generally very worn unpriced copies which realize over \$100.00. This reprint is quite faithful to the original and was reprinted from the finest copy known. Remember, this is the colonial collection of the man who wrote **EARLY COINS OF AMERICA**. This catalogue is rated "A+" by John Adams whose comment for the sale reads, "Some of the finest colonial and Washington material ever assembled - a core sale." Each of the remaining catalogues will be sold for \$20.00 each.

[2] The second offering is **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC BIOGRAPHIES**, by Pete Smith, distributed exclusively by **THE MONEY TREE**. The new 256 page book contains more than 1400 pertinent biographies of Americans of numismatic importance from the 18th century to today. Only 65 copies of the GBC (plastic spiral) bound, laminated flexible card-covered, 8 1/2 by 11 inch book were produced.

This work represents many years of work by the author of **THE STARRED REVERSE CENT** and **NAMES WITH NOTES**. No comparable work exists in American numismatics. Much of the information which is contained here is readily available nowhere else. We have sold many copies already to public and university libraries. This work is absolutely indispensable for any numismatist or numismatic library. We have only a very few copies remaining. We are selling them for \$37.50, each.

[3] Also we have a few remaining copies of the most recent edition of Martin Gengerke's, **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS**, the 1990, 8th edition. This work is a chronological listing of each of the known 13,000+ numismatic auction sales conducted in the United States between 1828 and June of 1990. **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS** is a GBC bound, laminated flexible card-covered, 8 1/2 by 11 inch, 271 page book printed on acid-free paper. Martin's herculean work is the standard reference for the field. Most cataloguer's use **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS** as the source for attribution. A copy in a recent auction brought over \$40.00 (plus a 10% buyer's premium). We are offering **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS** for \$30.00, each.

We really suggest that you contact us ASAP, as we expect all of the remaining copies of these works to sell out completely soon after this issue of **LIMB** reaches our readers. There are no plans to reprint any of these works in the near future. Orders without checks cannot be guaranteed to be

filled.

So fill out the enclosed order sheet and send your check forthwith. Really, these books will sell out fast. Don't be disappointed.

THIS N' THAT

We recently received a request from Armand Champa asking our assistance in helping him to obtain some original issues of Frossard's **NUMISMA**. Unfortunately, we were unable to supply him with the issues he needs. Perhaps some of our readers might be able to help him. Quoting from his letter:

The issues I need are:

Volume 1, Number 1

Volume 2, Number 1

Volume 7, Number 1

Volume 10, Number 5

Volume 10, Number 10

I have several duplicates and will trade two for one, or I will purchase any of the above.

Armand can be contacted at P.O. Box 22316, Louisville, KY 40222.

Mea Culpa. Mea Culpa. Mea Culpa. In our 15th mail bid sale, we offered a run of auction catalogues issues by Numismatik Lanz Munchen (Munich) In my introduction I wrote that the firm was "begun by the late Dr. Hubert Lanz". Soon after the catalogues were mailed we received a most courteous FAX from Munich, Germany from the "late" Dr. Lanz who was quite pleased to inform me that in the words of Mark Twain, "Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated." We gladly apologize to the venerable Dr. Lanz for our error, one for which are most pleased to correct.

You may notice that among the organizations to which we belong is (are?) **THE JOHN REICH COLLECTOR'S SOCIETY (JRCS)**. I heartily recommend this numismatic organization to all of our readers, and all of our non-readers. As stated in the society's glossy, illustrated publication, **JOHN REICH JOURNAL**, "The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins."

One of the things that I look for in numismatic organizations is a sense of enthusiasm, joy, good fellowship (and ladyship), and good humor among its members and its publication. The **JOHN REICH JOURNAL** is currently co-edited by Brad Karoleff and Keith Bellman, (two Greater Cincinnati- and Lesser Kentucky-area collectors, enthusiasts, numismatists, and snappy dressers).

The 40 page January 1993 issue (Volume 7, Number 2) features 7 articles such as "The Double Stripe Bust Quarter Reverse" by John McCloskey, "Bust Quarter Census" by Russell Logan (JRCS Treasurer and hail fellow well met), and "Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets: The Numerals" by Edgar E. Souders (numismatic researcher and writer par excellence).

However, my favorite part of each issue is "Editors' Comments" by Brad and Keith which overflows

with their refreshing love of numismatics in general and early American silver and gold in particular, gentle good humor, all in an ingratiating, unaffected style. Annual dues for the JRCS is a mere \$10.00 annually for which you will receive (I believe) 4 issues. It is such a good deal that I think I will even mail in my past due dues tonight (or perhaps more appropriately my past-due dues, as I don't really wish to discuss my past due-dues in public.)

Membership information may be obtained by writing David J. Davis (President and good fellow), P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Also, according to Myron, and I am attempting to quote him exactly, "For all of our patient, understanding friends who have been waiting for hardbound 'thises' and deluxe 'thats' we are gaining on it, and don't be surprised if a miracle happens soon."

After having been involved with printed matter which is intended to be published for several years now, I am frankly amazed that anything ever gets printed, much less on schedule. All that I have learned seems to indicate that Murphy was an optimist.

Various corollaries to Murphy involving publishing seem to come to mind.

1. If it is to be published, the deadline will not be met.
2. Material ready-to-be printed which is mailed to the printer will get lost or delayed in the mail.
3. Material ready-to-be printed which is sent air-mail to the printer will be destroyed when the air-mail plane crashes.
4. Material ready-to-be printed which is sent by truck will find the truck getting stuck in a blizzard, hijacked, if the truck has not caught fire first.
5. Upon receiving your material to be printed, the most responsible printer who has never previously failed to meet a deadline will suffer bankruptcy, illness, divorce, power failure, equipment breakdown, flood, fire, and pestilence, or any combination of the preceding.
6. When your printer is ready, and when the mail is working to its optimum, and when the weather is fine, the writer will find that life will throw the writer a curve, eliminating the time to write.

So whenever you receive any publication, no matter how humble, be grateful and regard it as either a minor or major miracle.

BELIEVE IT OR DON'T or WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

Late last year on a Saturday morning Jeff Daniher, now a Cincinnati resident and who formerly lived about 15 minutes from our Rocky River location, drove up to our office to bring us some numismatic literature which was to be consigned for our 16th mail bid sale (and was). I always love going through the literature with the consignors as invariably there is something which I haven't seen before and then I can learn something new. Or maybe there is something that the consignor considers box filler which may turn out to be a "jewel" in hiding.

Jeff's boxes were full of neat stuff. One item which I had not seen before was a volume of Paul Taglione's 1986 **A REFERENCE TO UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOLD COINAGE. Volume IV: An Investment Philosophy for the Prudent Consumer.** I was quite familiar with Volumes I through III which dealt specifically with U.S. gold \$1.00s, \$2.50s, and \$3.00s. Interestingly enough, Jeff had

two copies.

While talking with Jeff, the phone rang. Normally Myron and I are in the office together on Saturday mornings, but he was visiting a client and was going to get to the office much later than normal. So in getting the phone I had to leave Jeff.

The call was from Brad Karoleff of Coins Plus in Florence, Kentucky, co-editor of the **JOHN REICH JOURNAL**, numismatist extraordinaire, and a good friend with a quick wit and great sense of humor. After a bit of mutual verbal combat (from which I escaped bloodied but unbowed) Brad brought up the purpose of his call. He was in urgent need of a rather obscure work: Paul Taglione's 1986 **A REFERENCE TO UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOLD COINAGE. Volume IV: An Investment Philosophy for the Prudent Consumer**. "Have you ever seen a copy? By any remote chance do you have one for sale?" Brad asked.

Amazing, I had seen my first copy only five minutes earlier, and here was a phone call (and a long shot at best) to see if we had a copy to sell. I then called Jeff over and asked him if he would be willing to sell one of the two copies to Brad at a mutually satisfactory price. Jeff agreed. I then told Brad that we just might have a copy for him. Brad was psyched. He asked how quickly we might be able to mail him the copy. I then told him about Jeff. It turns out that Jeff and Brad know each other and live relatively close to each other.

Now how about that for service from The Money Tree! We get a call for an obscure work; two copies walk in the door five minutes earlier; we are able to match the buyer and seller instantly; and finally, we are able to have the seller drive four hours to Cleveland to show us the book and then to drive four hours back home to personally deliver the copy to the buyer who lives "next door". Welcome to The Money Tree Adoption Service.

Afterword: I felt so lucky that I immediately went out to buy tickets for the \$12 million Ohio Lottery drawing that night. I figured that I was on a roll, so why not tempt fate? I sprung for \$10.00 worth, and do you know what? Not only didn't I win squat, but what are the odds with having 60 total numbers on the tickets of not having a single number match any of the six winning numbers? Not even one! A shut-out! Bupkus! Nada! I suppose there is a moral somewhere in here, but the only one that comes to mind is the one about a fool and his money.

JOIN THE N.B.S.

Those of you who haven't joined the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, or those of you who have forgotten to renew you membership, send in your \$15.00 check for membership to Ken Lowe, Box 43286, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Make yopu checks payable to NBS. Even though my term as Secretary-Treasurer is nearly over, it is not too late to mail me your \$15.00 annual membership dues or your renewal (\$15.00 U.S. for residents of North America, checks drawn on U.S. banks. \$20.00 for residents of Europe, Asia, South America, or Australia, checks drawn on U.S. banks.).

Membership includes 4 issues of **THE ASYLUM**, the N.B.S. quarterly journal devoted exclusively to numismatic literature and its appreciation thereof. The last issue under the editorship of Charles Davis had to be the best one ever.

A personal request. I want to buy a nice copy of **JACOB PERKINS: His Inventions, His Times, & His Contemporaries** by Greville and Dorothy Bathe, 1943, for my personal library. Please contact me if you have a copy to sell.



THE MONEY TREE
1260 Smith Court
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
(216) 333-3444

Price \$2.5
PPD